



PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0012.Y1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: An Apparatus for Facilitating the Connection of Tubulars Using a Top Drive

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 25, 2004

In response to the Final Office Action dated February 25, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 25, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0012.Y1/WBP for excess claims and any other fees required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office. A Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time are submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Group Art Unit: 3672

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on 2 June 04, with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing label No. EV335469234US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

24/ve.04
Date

William B. Patterson

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